



ISE VALLEY VAGABONDS



Rushden & Higham Ferrers Historical Trail - BWF App No PT250

START & FINISH: Market Square, Higham Ferrers, Rushden, Northants NN10 8DZ
OS map 153 Grid Ref SP960685 Distance 11km
Fee £1.00 Souvenir sticker available on request

Weekday parking restrictions apply, but there is plenty of street parking nearby

Route last updated on 23 February 2013

This route description is valid from 1 January 2013 to 31 December 2013

This walk has been established by members of the Ise Valley Vagabonds Walking Club (BWF Club No 70) and is a qualifying event in the IVV award scheme. It can be walked at any time.

This walk will visit many old, historic sites in both Rushden & Higham Ferrers. You will pass a number of blue plaques as well as sites mentioned in "Love For Lydia" by H. E. Bates

Leave the car park at the exit next to the War Memorial and Town Hall, cross the High Street and turn left. At the Queens Head pub, turn right into Wharf Road (*public toilets after the pub*). Turn left into Westfields Terrace and continue until you reach Nene Road. Turn right. Continue on footpath between fence and leylandi hedge. At path from right (2 metal bollards), turn left into estate (*this is Shelley Drive*). Follow road until you reach a T-junction.

Q1. With which town is Higham Ferrers twinned?

(there is also a Permanent Trail at that town, as well as a "Higham Ferrers Platz")

Cross road and turn right for 300 metres. Turn left into Hayway and continue for 450 metres, until you reach Spencer Road. Turn right and continue to the end and enter the park. Continue straight ahead, until you get to the end of the tennis courts. Turn left on tarmac path, passing a BMX course. Ignore the bridge on your left and turn right, then left to exit the park via a wooden gate. Cross road **with care** and turn left. Immediately after Rushden Fire Station, turn right between the yellow bollards onto a cycleway. Follow this until you meet another tarmac path from the right (*this is the "Greenway" and is a cycleway that will eventually link Rushden and Irthlingborough*). Turn left and follow to main road.

Cross road via pedestrian crossings, aiming for the right hand side of the road ahead of you. Go uphill and, with Rushden Station on your left, turn right into Rectory Road, crossing to the other side when safe to do so. Continue along Rectory Road. Opposite the Rectory Road Health Clinic is a blue plaque.

Q2. When was The Salvation Army established in Rushden?

Continue along Rectory Road, cross via pedestrian crossing, turn left and then turn right down Coffee Tavern Lane to reach the High Street. Turn left and at the end, turn left along Newton Road. Cross over and pass by the Carnegie Public Library (*this was opened on 25 November 1905. Andrew Carnegie (1835-1919) made his fortune in the steel industry, distributing a portion of his wealth through various charitable trusts, which included among their designated purposes the building of libraries. Inside can be obtained a very good free guide to the "H .E. Bates Trail"*).

Ahead to cross over the junction and keep going along Newton Road to reach, on your left, the old Fire Station and next to it Rushden Athletic Club. Turn right along Grove Road. House number 29, advertising "Praed's Fine Ales & Stout" is the former Unicorn pub. Continue until you reach house number 51.

Q3. Who was born at this house?

Continue along Grove Road then turn right along Essex Road, passing house number 15.

Q4. When did H.E.Bates live here?

At the end of Essex Road, cross over and turn right along Park Road, taking the first left into Albion Place. (*this was previously known as Green`s Yard, because Green`s factory stood at one end. Rock Cottage is after an area of Rushden called "The Rock" which was a poorer area of housing*). Proceed to the end and then down the narrow alley, to reach the main road. (*the building on the right, at the end, is the former Green`s shoe factory. Dated 1874, it is the oldest existing factory building in Rushden*). Turn left along the raised causeway to reach the pedestrian crossing (*the causeway was originally constructed to keep pedestrians out of the muddy road*). Cross over, turn right then turn left up Wymington Road. At the entrance to Rushden Hospital, turn left into The Drive and go to the entrance road to the hospital (*this was formerly the Sanatorium. It is mentioned in "Love For Lydia" as in the book Lydia was a patient there, having contracted tuberculosis*).

Retrace your steps to the road, cross over and turn left then after 100 metres, turn right into Hall Park. Follow the tarmac path for 175 metres, then turn left on smaller path between a small avenue of trees, following this round to the right at the far end of the park to reach the western exit / entrance. Turn right and go downhill on the wide tarmac path, passing a sun dial on your left (*the large circular flower bed in the grass to your right was the former site of the bandstand*). (*There are toilets to either side of the archway on your left*). Pass in front of Rushden Hall (*this is the setting for "Love For Lydia" and was the home of the fictional Aspen family*).

Continue ahead, downhill, to exit the park and reach the main road. Here turn right to reach house number 46.

Q5. Who was born here?

Ahead for 30 metres, cross road **with care** and go up Crabb Street. When road turns right, go ahead on tarmac path. At "Sunny Bank", turn right then left into an alleyway. Cross road and continue in alleyway, which emerges into pub car park. Go through car park and turn right along pavement in front of the Wheatsheaf Hotel, to pass in front of St. Mary`s Church. (*Rushden War Memorial is on your left*)

At the junction of (*unnamed*) Church Street, Rushden Café and High Street, cross over **with care** via the raised island and go into High Street.

(there are numerous plaques along here, generally high up. Keep your eyes open as there may be a question or two about them)

Proceed along High Street. Very near to the shops “George Alan” and “Mrs B’s”, there is a plaque in the shape of a strip of film.

Q6. What stood on this site?

At the end of High Street, cross the road and pass The Railway Inn (Wetherspoon). Just past this is a blue plaque

Q7. What was the Stonehurst used to house?

Ahead to the traffic lights, turn right and cross to the left hand side of the road to your right. Ahead passing Rushden Station (*this is the home of the Rushden Historical & Transport Society and houses a CAMRA award winning bar*). Keep going along John Clark Way. After the railway bridge on your left, fork left onto the tarmac path, signposted The Greenway/Higham Ferrers. Walk next to the railway line until you reach a cross path. Turn left between three bollards and ahead to reach a large green. Continue along the left hand side of this (*Tollbar*) to reach the main road. (*note the Rushden town sign on the left. This is one of three such signs on the approaches to Rushden. Each one has a different aspect relating to Rushden on it*)

Turn right. Just after the dentists is house number 67, presumed to be the birthplace of Higham Ferrers` greatest son, Henry Chichele (*he went on to become the Archbishop of Canterbury between 1413 and 1443*). Cross the road **with care** and continue in the same direction towards the centre of Higham Ferrers. Cross over Wharf Road and fork left along Hind Stile (*this was known as “Behind The Style” in 1276*). At the end of the road, go ahead into the narrow alleyway and emerge at the main road, where turn left. In a few yards, opposite the Green Dragon Hotel, turn left again, through an archway, into a medical centre car park. Go through this and turn right along the road (*this is Saffron Road*). (*You will pass to the rear of the ruins of Chicele College. It was founded by Archbishop Chicele in 1422 and dissolved by Henry VIII*). At the end, go ahead on Saffron Road and almost immediately enter the cemetery via the small gate just past the right of the entrance arch. Follow the path to the right for approximately 30 metres to reach a distinctive grave (*as at 23rd February, overgrown with brambles*).

Q8. What is the nautical item attached to the memorial?

Retrace your steps and cross over Saffron Road and turn left along Cemetery Lane to the main road. Cross via the pedestrian crossing and turn left. You will pass some almshouses.

Q9. Which Charity?

Continue to the roundabout and turn right along Kimbolton Road. At the end of the playing field, turn right through the barrier then, at the first lamppost, take the gravel path to the left. Follow this meandering path until it rejoins the tarmac path (*this is the site of the Rabbit Warren. Rabbits were bred here to provide food for the castle*).

Turn left, go through barrier and at end of grass area, turn left and follow path to reach a road (*this is Midland Road*). (*Opposite is the site of the former John White shoe factory*). Turn right passing John White Close (*this is built on the site of the castle*). Pass the library. (*the road / footpath on the right of the library takes you to the site of the station. It was built in 1890 to link with Kettering. It closed to passengers in 1959 and goods services ended in 1969. There is now no evidence of the station left at the site*). Turn right through metal bollards to St. Mary`s Parish Church. As you pass the church, turn left through the metal gate. (*The church was built between 1250 & 1280 and has a 13th century font. If it is open, it is well worth a visit*). Ahead of you can be seen the Bede House (*founded in 1423 by Archbishop Chicele to house "12 poor male residents with a Bedeswoman to take care of them"*). Turn right and pass the Chantry Chapel (*built in the 15th century. It was the Grammar school until 1906. The porch has a date of 1636 inscribed on the framework*). Ahead to pass the 14th century churchyard cross and exit the churchyard through the metal gate. Continue down the alley. (*The shop on the right at the end is the setting for "The Sleepless Moon" by H.E.Bates. He lived in Higham Ferrers for many years with his grandparents. Many of his book and short stories are set in the town*). Turn left into the Market Square to complete the walk.

We hope you have enjoyed the walk!

If you are interested by anything that you have seen on the walk, please visit the web site of the Rushden and District History Society www.rdhs.org.uk & www.rushdenheritage.co.uk for a wealth of further information.

The Ise Valley Vagabonds have established other Permanent Trails at Bedford (2), Daventry, Kempston, Kettering, King`s Lynn, London (2), Marston Moretaine (2), Oxford, Rugby, Stamford, Stratford upon Avon, Warwick and Wellingborough. They are all qualifying events towards the IVV award scheme. Further information about these walks, the IVV, the club and all its activities can be found by visiting our Web Site www.vagabonds.org.uk

THE ORGANISERS ARE NOT LIABLE FOR ACCIDENTS, THEFT, AND/OR DAMAGE TO PROPERTY. EVERY EFFORT WILL BE MADE BY THE ORGANISERS TO MAKE THIS A SAFE, ENJOYABLE AND MEMORABLE EVENT.

**ISE VALLEY VAGABONDS
PERMANENT TRAIL REGISTRATION FORM**

TRAIL	Rushden & Higham Ferrers Historical Trail PT250 (2013/2)	
ROUTE UPDATED	23 February 2013	
DATE WALKED		
NAME		
ADDRESS		
ADDITIONAL WALKERS		
ENTRY FEE	_ Walkers @ £1.00 each	Total £
TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED		£
Please put my IVV stamps on a new set of Insert cards Yes/No		
ANSWERS		
1		
2		
3		
4		
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6		
7		
8		
9		
Comments		
<p>If you have a problem with this trail, please try and resolve it with the organiser. If you are unable to resolve the problem, then please contact the BWF Trail Officer.</p>		
<p>Please enclose a STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE (at least C6 (114 x 162mm) or DL (110 x 220mm)) with this form and send it to</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Carol Jones 138 Rushden Road Wymington Rushden Northants NN10 9LE</p>		